

Elected Council Members

MAYOR

Trish Giddens
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Waipukurau

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The Central Hawke's Bay District Council comprises of Her Worship the Mayor and eight elected members representing the district's two wards. Elections are held every three years. Why not get involved next time?

ARAMOANA/RUAHINE WARD

Sally Butler
'Glenalvon', 492 State Highway 50,
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David Tennent
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RUATANIWHA WARD

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Hilary Pedersen
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Michael Waite
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For more information about the Council structure please refer to our Local Governance Statement, available from the Council on request or at our website: www.chbdc.govt.nz

Mayor/Chief Executive Report

The 2008/9 financial year was dominated by the update of Council's 2009/19 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) as well as the promised review of Council's Rating Structures. The focus of the LTCCP was the sustainability of our District – and was completed against a backdrop of central government change, election promises, and a review of the Local Government Act.

In 2008/9 Council continued to run deficit budgets – achieved by not setting funds aside for the future repayment of debt. Although not obvious from the Annual Report which shows a loss of \$1.4m – on a cash basis the roading renewals required to maintain the roading network – were \$2m less than the depreciation charge included in this loss.

The international economic meltdown offered many challenges – including a slowdown in the building sector, tight operating conditions for our Council Organisation - Infracon Limited, and a reduction in the ability to maximise interest on short term funds. There was also concern over this Council's ability to access future borrowing – and to mitigate this Council created its own Investment Statement (Council equivalent of a Prospectus), allowing funds to be raised in March this year for our Landfill Cell extension, Stormwater projects and ongoing Waste Water upgrades.

As always, we continue our review of operating costs and contracts – and to monitor the operations of our key contractors. Opportunities for sharing services with other Hawke's Bay Councils and the Tararua District Council are also continually reviewed – but the unavailability of high speed broadband in CHB remains a problem.

The key focus continues to be the Waipukurau/Waipawa/Otane waste water upgrades. Although Council hold consents to discharge treated effluent into the Tuki Tuki River - public concern has required that a land based option be evaluated. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council, who have agreed to provide the land and establish forests – would be a key player in any land based solution. A land based discharge will require a revised consent.

Also under renewal are the Porangahau/ Te Paerahi waste water consents – a process which began in 2000. To date, Council has incurred costs of over \$500k - which underscores the real cost to this District of the Resource Management Act.

Our balance sheet remains strong – with Total assets (excluding Property Plant and Equipment), exceeding Total Liabilities – although this will change as Council takes on more debt to fund infrastructure upgrades. In spite of the economic turmoil – the return on our Investments exceeds the cost of borrowing.

However – much of this could not be achieved without a dedicated staff – who have continued to work with the best interests of the District at heart. We would like to thank them for their efforts and that of the Councillors.



Trish Giddens
Mayor



John Freeman
Chief Executive

Management Structure

